

“Research in Action” Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

Dr. Nancy Segal on Researching Twins [00:00-35:19]

Research in Action - Episode 118

Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode of the podcast, the guest is Dr. Nancy Segal, Professor of Psychology at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and Director of the Twin Studies Center which she founded in 1991. Dr. Segal received a B.A. in psychology and literature from Boston University (1973), and an M.A. (1974) and Ph.D. (1982) in the Social Sciences and Behavioral Sciences from the University of Chicago. From 1982-1991 she was a post-doctoral fellow and research associate at the University of Minnesota, affiliated with the well-known Minnesota Study of Twins Reared Apart. Dr. Segal has authored over 200 scientific articles and book chapters, plus several books on twins. Her latest book is *Accidental Brothers: The Story of Twins Switched at Birth and the Power of Nature and Nurture* and follows the life histories of two sets of identical Colombian twins who were inadvertently exchanged at birth, and provides a number of interesting research findings. Her 2012 book, *Born Together-Reared Apart: The Landmark Minnesota Twin Study* (2012, Harvard University Press) won the 2013 William James Book Award from the American Psychological Association. Her other books include *Someone Else's Twin*, *Indivisible by Two*, *Entwined Lives*, and *Twin Mythconceptions*, which describes false beliefs about twins and provides much needed correction.

Segment One [00:00- 12:30] - In this segment, Nancy describes how she got started researching twins.

Segment Two [12:31-23:55] - In this segment, Nancy discusses how she frames her research for a more general audience.

Segment Three [23:56-35:19] - In this segment, Nancy shares about some of her most recent studies on twins.

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e118/>

Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Discuss suggestions for improving communication of scientific research to the public
- Describe an example of a process for writing a book
- Provide an example of the application of scientific research within a legal domain

Guiding Questions for Listening

- What led Dr. Segal to researching twins?
- What does Dr. Segal share have been some of the broad outcomes of her research on twins?
- According to Dr. Segal's research, what are some of the contributing factors to the increased rates of twins?
- What are some of Dr. Segal's suggestions for improving communication of research findings to the general public?
- What does Dr. Segal share is her process for approaching the development of a book?
- What does Dr. Segal explain have been some additional applications of her twins research, specifically within the legal domain?
- In Dr. Segal's experience, what has been the overall public response to twins research?
- What does Dr. Segal share has allowed her to remain engaged with twins research throughout her career?

Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e118/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e118/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Dr. Nancy Segal if they could?

Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2018, July 2). *Dr. Nancy Segal on Researching Twins*. [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e118/>

Notes

About the Research in Action Podcast

“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus – ranked top ten in the nation for online education two years running by U.S. News & World Report. OSU Ecampus has more than 45 degree programs and more than 1,000 classes online.

Contact

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